

Preconditions for Education Specialist Programs

Preliminary Education Specialist

- (1) English Language Skills.** In each program of professional preparation, the college or university or school district requires candidates to demonstrate knowledge of alternative methods of developing English language skills, including reading, among all pupils, including those for whom English is a second language, in accordance with the Commission's standards. [*Reference: Education Code Sections 44227, 44253.1, and 44283.*](#)
- (2) Program Admission.** The sponsor of an education specialist teacher preparation program assesses each candidate's standing in relation to required subject matter preparation during the admissions process. The program admits only those candidates who meet one of the following criteria. [*Reference: Education Code Sections 44227 \(a\).*](#)
- The candidate provides evidence of having passed the appropriate subject matter examination(s).
 - The candidate provides evidence of having attempted the appropriate subject matter examinations(s).
 - The candidate provides evidence of registration for the next scheduled examination.
 - The candidate provides evidence of having completed an appropriate Commission approved subject matter preparation program.
 - The candidate provides evidence of continuous progress toward meeting the subject matter requirement.
 - The candidate provides evidence of enrollment in an organized subject matter examination preparation program.
- (3) Subject Matter Proficiency.** The approved teacher preparation program sponsor determines that each candidate meets the subject matter requirement prior to student teaching, or, for intern candidates, before being given daily whole class instructional responsibilities in a K-12 school or before becoming the teacher of record in a K-12 school. [*Reference: Education Code Section 44227.*](#)

To demonstrate subject matter competence, a candidate for an Education Specialist teaching credential, except for the Early Childhood Special Education credential, shall

1. Pass the Commission-approved Multiple Subject subject matter examination; or
2. Pass a Commission-approved subject matter examination in art, English, mathematics including foundational-level mathematics, music, social science or science including foundational-level general science or specialized science; or
3. Complete a Commission-approved subject matter program in art, English, mathematics including foundational-level mathematics, music, social science or science including foundational-level general science or specialized science; or

4. Hold a California general education teaching credential, in any subject.

For employment purposes, Education Specialists will have to meet the subject matter requirements of a Highly Qualified Teacher according to federal Public Law 108-446 Sections 1401 and 1412 and California Code of Regulations Section 6111.

- (a) For those assigned to a setting that is designated as teaching an elementary curriculum per NCLB/IDEA, subject matter competence shall be accomplished by passing the examination approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials (currently the California Subject Examination for Teachers: Multiple Subjects.)
- (b) For those assigned to teach in a setting designated as teaching a middle or high school curriculum per NCLB/IDEA, subject matter competence may be achieved by demonstration of subject matter competence in art, English, mathematics including foundational-level mathematics, music, social science, or science including foundational-level general science and specialized science. Competence may be achieved by: 1) successful passage of the authorized state exam in a single subject listed above authorized by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (currently California Subject Examination for Teachers: Single Subject) or 2) completion of a Commission approved Single Subject Matter program or the equivalent.
- (c) Those Education Specialists assigned to teach students whose curriculum is based on alternative achievement standards (i.e. alternatives to the California high school exit exam) may demonstrate subject matter competence through the same method as elementary teachers in (a) above.

(4) Completion of Requirements. A college or university or school district that operates a program for the Education Specialist teaching credential shall determine, prior to recommending a candidate for the credential, that the candidate meets all legal requirements for the credential, including but not limited to: [Reference: Education Code Sections 44225\(a\), 44227, and 44283.2\(a\).](#)

- Possession of a baccalaureate or higher degree other than in professional education from a regionally accredited institution
- Satisfaction of the Basic Skills Requirement
- Completion of an accredited professional preparation program
- Completion of the subject matter requirement
- Demonstration of knowledge of the principles and provisions of the Constitution of the United States
- Passage of the [Reading Instruction Competence Assessment \(RICA\)](#) [Passage of the RICA examination does not apply to Early Childhood Special Education Credential candidates [Section 44283.2\(b\).](#)]